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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from ~~rare earth elements which essentially include one or more only~~ rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence; A' represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from Fe, Mn, and Al; B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Pt, Fe, Mn, Co and the rare-earth elements; x is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ ; y is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 \leq y < 0.5$ ; and z is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 < \underline{0.08} \leq z \leq 0.5$ .

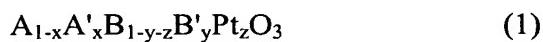
2. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein, in the general formula (1), A represents at least one element selected from La, Nd, and Y; A' represents at least one element selected from Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and Ag; and B' represents at least one element selected from Rh and Ru.

3. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein y and z in the general formula (1) satisfy the following relation  $0 < y+z \leq 0.5$ .

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4. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein x and z in the general formula (1) satisfy the condition:  $x = z$ , provided that x and z satisfy the following condition:  $2x = z$  when A' is Ag.

5. (Currently amended) A catalyst composition comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from rare-earth elements which essentially include one or more rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence; A' represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from Fe, Mn, and Al; B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Pt, Fe, Mn, Co, and the rare-earth elements; x is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ ; y is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 \leq y < 0.5$ ; and z is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation:  $0 < \underline{0.08} \leq z \leq 0.5$ .